

“ Great holiday, we had the freedom to do our own thing when it suited as well as a range of excursions when we needed them. The Ghan train and the Great Barrier Reef experiences were first class. ”

Mr & Mrs Parry, Cheshire

Sydney Harbour, Australia

## WONDERS OF AUSTRALIA

22 days from only £4,995 per person

**Australia – a land so vast and timeless, where ancient Aboriginal cultures blend with modern life to create one of the most cosmopolitan and friendly nations on earth. Australia is a country of great contrasts and immense beauty and The Wonders of Australia tour offers a fabulous way to explore this amazing country at a relaxed pace. From the glitter of Sydney and Melbourne, to the haunting splendour of the outback – we visit all the must-see sights, including four nights in tropical Cairns, the ideal base to visit the Great Barrier Reef.**

**Including a choice of outbound stopovers, an overnight journey on-board ‘the legendary Ghan’, and guided throughout Australia by your experienced Distant Journeys Tour Manager, you can be sure the Wonders of Australia will create memories that will last a lifetime.**



③ = Number of nights





**feefo** 205 reviews

Product Rating:

**99%**

ON THIS ITINERARY

### **TOUR HIGHLIGHT** - The Ghan



This tour includes a fabulous overnight journey through the Australian outback on-board the legendary Ghan, with all meals and selected drinks included.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

### **Flights with leading scheduled airlines**

- ✓ Return economy class flights with Qantas / Emirates
- ✓ Depart from London Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow at no additional cost
- ✓ All domestic flights within Australia
- ✓ Premium Economy and Business Class upgrades are available on selected routes for a supplement

### **Great choice of included stopovers**

- ✓ Your choice of two night outbound stopover in Singapore or Dubai
- ✓ Your stopover includes airport transfers, accommodation, daily breakfast and a city sightseeing tour

### **Carefully selected hotels**

- ✓ Superior hotels in great locations, as detailed in the itinerary
- ✓ All-inclusive overnight accommodation on-board The Ghan

### **Many meals included**

- ✓ Daily breakfast included, worth £349pp
- ✓ Buffet lunch on the Great Barrier Reef
- ✓ Luncheon cruise around Sydney Harbour

### **All-inclusive on the Ghan**

- ✓ Breakfast, lunch and dinner included
- ✓ Selected alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks included

### **Unforgettable experiences included**

- ✓ Sightseeing tours in Singapore, Melbourne, Adelaide, Alice Springs and Sydney
- ✓ Uluru (Ayers Rock) at sunset and sunrise
- ✓ Full day on the Great Barrier Reef
- ✓ Luncheon cruise around Sydney Harbour

### **We include even more**

- ✓ Services of an experienced local Tour Manager
- ✓ All hotel portage
- ✓ All overseas transfers and transport in modern air-conditioned coaches
- ✓ All airport charges, security charges and applicable fuel surcharges
- ✓ UK Air Passenger Duty
- ✓ No surcharge guarantee
- ✓ ATOL protection for your holiday



# WONDERS OF AUSTRALIA

Days 1 to 7: Singapore - Melbourne



Gardens by the Bay, Singapore

## Day 1: Depart UK

Depart from the UK airport most convenient for you with Qantas / Emirates, at no extra cost: London Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow.

***In-flight meals and drinks included***

## Day 2: Singapore, 2 nights

All flights to Singapore will travel via Dubai. Arrive into the wonderful city of Singapore and transfer to the four star Copthorne Kings Hotel, situated in an enviable position close to the banks of the Singapore River.

***In-flight meals and drinks included***

## Alternative Stopover - Dubai

We have based days 2 – 4 of this itinerary on a stopover in Singapore. Alternatively you may choose to stop in Dubai for the same price. All stopovers include transfers to and from the hotel, daily breakfast and a city sightseeing tour. If choosing Dubai, flight timings vary – please speak with one of our personal travel experts for more details.

## Day 3: Singapore

Known as ‘the crossroads of Asia’, Singapore is a city where east meets west; a cosmopolitan melting pot with an inspirational identity. This morning enjoy a tour of this wonderful city. Included is a stop at Merlion Park and the impressive views of Marina Bay. We continue to the historic Civic District, Thian Hock Keng Temple and the fabulous orchid gardens set within Singapore’s botanical gardens.

Return to the hotel where the rest of our day is free to spend as we please.

***Breakfast included***

## Day 4: Depart Singapore

A day at leisure in Singapore until it’s time to leave for our evening flight to Melbourne. Possibly enjoy high tea at Raffles or explore the wonderful Gardens by the Bay.

***Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included***

## Day 5: Melbourne, 3 nights

After clearing customs and collecting our luggage this morning, we take a city tour of Melbourne. Sights include Captain Cook’s Cottage (optional entry at own expense), Victoria Markets, Federation Square, the MCG and Rod Laver Arena. We also head out of the city to see the waterside suburbs of St. Kilda and Port Melbourne. We spend our first three nights in Australia at the four star Mercure Treasury Gardens, situated in a wonderful location, just opposite Fitzroy Gardens.

***In-flight meals and drinks included***

## Day 6: Melbourne Freedom Day

This is our first Freedom Day, where we can choose to relax or explore as we please. Our Distant Journeys Tour Manager will be on hand to help with advice on things to do, where to eat, make any arrangements and book excursions for you to further explore the area. For example, we have the opportunity to take a trip to Phillip Island, home to the world’s largest colony of Fairy Penguins, to view the Penguin Parade. Alternatively, take the Puffing Billy steam train through the Blue Dandenong Ranges, explore the city’s

most famous sporting landmarks or take dinner on the city’s historic tramcar.

***Breakfast included***

## Day 7: Melbourne Freedom Day

With so much to do and see in and around Melbourne, a further Freedom Day is an opportunity to enjoy an optional tour along one of the world’s most spectacular coastal drives, the internationally renowned Great Ocean Road. The full day tour begins in Torquay (home to the surfing paradise of Bells Beach) and meanders along the dramatic southwest coastline of Victoria to the impressive Twelve Apostles.

***Breakfast included***

## We recommend:

### The Colonial Tramcar Restaurant



Glide along the scenic streets of Melbourne while enjoying a seasonally-selected menu, fine Australian wine, and a fully stocked bar.





Twelve Apostles, Great Ocean Road



# WONDERS OF AUSTRALIA

Days 8 to 13: Adelaide - The Ghan - Alice Springs - Uluru



St. Peter's Cathedral, Adelaide



Dining aboard The Ghan

## Day 8: Adelaide, 2 nights

Following breakfast this morning, we board our flight to Adelaide. Surrounded by grassy parkland, picturesque hills and the Mount Lofty Range, Adelaide could scarcely present a more captivating aspect. We shall take a sightseeing tour and be introduced to Adelaide's streets, fine Victorian buildings and attractive parks and gardens that surround the city. Later, we arrive at the excellent Stamford Plaza for our next two nights.

**Breakfast and in-flight drinks included**

## Day 9: Adelaide Freedom Day

A Freedom Day to spend as you please. Take a look around Adelaide on foot or perhaps take an optional tour to the famous wine growing region of the Barossa Valley. Alternatively visit Kangaroo Island, situated off the Fleurieu Peninsula, which offers a unique touring experience combining friendly, native wildlife with natural, unspoilt wilderness.

**Breakfast included**

## Day 10: **TOUR HIGHLIGHT** The Ghan, Overnight



A morning at leisure until it's time to make our way to Adelaide Parklands Rail Terminal in time for a magnificent overland journey to Alice Springs, in the heart of Australia's outback.

Renowned as one of the world's most iconic train journeys, The Ghan was named after the Afghan cameleers who once traversed this route. Our twin accommodation is in Gold Service, air-conditioned, private sleepers, all with upper and lower bunk beds, en-suite shower, wash basin and toilet. Single travellers will stay in single cabins, which are configured as a lounge chair, converting into a bed at night, with shared bathroom facilities at the end of each carriage. Whilst on board, all meals are included as are a wide selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. During lunch, marvel at the ever changing landscape as we journey north. This evening, following dinner, sleep to the rhythm of the rails.

**Breakfast, lunch and dinner  
PLUS selected onboard drinks included**

## Day 11: Alice Springs, 2 nights

Awake this morning to notice the contrast between the fiery red earth and the cobalt blue skies. Enjoy an off train experience as The Ghan makes a short stop in Marla - in the middle of the Australian outback. In just 25 hours aboard The Ghan we will have covered 1,555 kilometres and passed golden wheatfields, vast sheep stations, rugged mountain ranges, salt lakes and the fierce Simpson Desert. Upon arrival into Alice Springs we will board our coach and enjoy a sightseeing tour of the outback's largest town. Visits include the Royal Flying Doctor Service, the School of the Air, and the Old Telegraph Station, now a museum and the site of the old springs from which Alice gets its name. Later in the afternoon we arrive at the four star DoubleTree by Hilton.

**Breakfast included**

## Day 12: Alice Springs Freedom Day

Our day is free to relax or explore the outback. You may wish to take an optional hot air balloon trip over the outback landscapes. Alternatively an excursion to the Western MacDonnell Ranges is an excellent opportunity to get a real picture of life in the outback. The full day tour takes us through the wondrous and picturesque scenery of Simpson's Gap, and the towering granite walls of Standley Chasm.

**Breakfast included**

## Day 13: **TOUR HIGHLIGHT** Uluru (Ayers Rock), Overnight



Leaving Alice Springs, we head west through amazing outback landscapes as we travel along the scenic Stuart and Lasseter Highways and make our way to Uluru, the icon of Australia's outback, and the world's largest monolith. Rising from the flat surrounding scrubland, Uluru is a site of deep cultural significance to the Aboriginal communities of the Northern Territory. Relax and enjoy a glass of sparkling wine whilst witnessing the changing colours as the sun begins to set. It's truly a photographer's delight. Overnight at the four star Desert Gardens Hotel.

**Breakfast included**





Simpson's Gap natural gorge, Northern Territory



# WONDERS OF AUSTRALIA

Days 14 to 20: Cairns - Sydney



Koala Gardens, Cairns



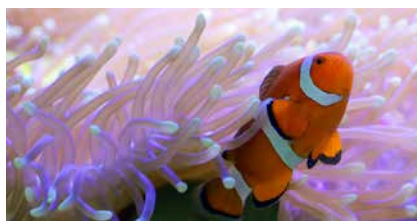
Sydney Harbour

## Day 14: Cairns, 4 nights

For early risers, a dawn visit to the rock has been arranged. Seeing Uluru at sunrise, from a different position and a different light, offers a totally new perspective on the changing colours and character of the rock. We return to the hotel for breakfast, prior to a gentle stroll around significant areas of the rock to learn more about its historical and cultural importance. Later, we visit the impressive series of rounded sandstone domes known as the Olgas. Afterwards we leave for the airport in time for our flight to Cairns. Upon arrival we shall transfer to the centrally located four star DoubleTree by Hilton, which will be our home for the next four nights.

**Breakfast and in-flight drinks included**

## Day 15: **TOUR HIGHLIGHT** Great Barrier Reef



A holiday to Australia would not be complete without a visit to the Great Barrier Reef. Its vibrantly coloured marine life and breathtakingly beautiful coral make this World Heritage site a must see for all visitors. During our full day Great Barrier Reef excursion, we board our high-speed catamaran and journey out to the Marine World platform located on the Outer Reef. Snorkel in the sheltered coral lagoon, or if you prefer to stay dry, view the reef from the semi-submersible reef

viewer, or the underwater observatory. With five hours at the reef there is plenty of time to do it all. For the more adventurous, there are a number of activities available at an additional cost, including scuba diving (no experience necessary), joining the marine biologist on a guided snorkel safari, or soaring above the reef on a spectacular scenic helicopter flight.

**Breakfast and lunch included**

## Day 16: Cairns Freedom Day

Although today has been left free you may wish to take an optional trip to Kuranda. To begin the day, guests are able to immerse themselves in traditional aboriginal culture at the Tjapukai Cultural Centre, with authentic music, dance and storytelling by the Tjapukai people. We then take the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway, a beautiful experience gliding over the rainforest canopy, to the picturesque market town of Kuranda, 'the village in the rainforest'. Kuranda is a lovely place to while away a few hours visiting the daily markets, the butterfly sanctuary or the Koala Gardens. The tour returns to Cairns by a scenic railway journey.

**Breakfast included**

## We recommend: Kuranda Railway & Skyrail



A scenic journey to Kuranda by the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway, a beautiful experience gliding over the rainforest canopy.

## Day 17: Cairns Freedom Day

Another free day to enjoy and relax in tropical northern Queensland. Surrounded by rainforest and mountains, Cairns boasts over 200 walking tracks; there are also numerous interesting museums and art galleries to explore, as well as the option to take a hot air balloon ride over the Atherton Tablelands. If you prefer to venture further afield, a day trip to the nearby World Heritage listed Daintree Rainforest, the oldest rainforest in the world, is a fascinating experience. The tour gives a wonderful insight into rainforest's unique flora and fauna, including a guided walk with an aboriginal guide and a cruise spotting saltwater crocodiles.

**Breakfast included**





Rainbow Lorikeet, Royal Botanical Gardens, Sydney

#### Day 18: Sydney, 3 nights

This morning we make our way to Cairns airport in time for our flight to Sydney. Upon arrival we head to the four star North Sydney Harbourview Hotel, overlooking Sydney Harbour Bridge. Sydney is a city that takes full advantage of its natural setting – its sparkling harbour is host to the world famous Sydney Harbour Bridge and the spectacular Sydney Opera House. Sydney's suburbs are blessed with lush native bushland and pristine sandy beaches. Add to this the excellent restaurants and cafés, endless shopping opportunities and a vibrant culture and it's very easy to understand why Sydney is one of the world's favourite cities.

**Breakfast and in-flight drinks included**

#### Day 19: **TOUR HIGHLIGHT** Sydney - sightseeing & luncheon cruise



This morning's sightseeing tour begins with a drive through some of Sydney's most fashionable inner city suburbs enroute to Bondi Beach. Travel by Double Bay and Rushcutters Bay as we make our way back to the city centre. We journey via Hyde Park and Parliament House to Mrs Macquarie's Chair in the Royal Botanical Gardens, where we stop for the classic photo opportunity of the Opera House and Harbour Bridge.

We complete our tour in the best possible way – enjoying a luncheon cruise around Sydney's beautiful harbour. The views of the Opera House, the Harbour Bridge and the many dream homes nestled along the edge of the water are truly amazing. The afternoon has been left free to spend as we please.

**Breakfast and lunch included**

#### Day 20: Sydney Freedom Day

Today has been left free, but for those that so desire, we shall be taking an optional trip to the World Heritage listed Blue Mountains. The Blue Mountains are a perfect example of native Australian bushland, with gum trees, majestic peaks and deep gorges stretching as far as the eye can see. Experience the panoramas from a series of lookouts, including Echo Point – the prime position to view the Three Sisters rock formation. The excursion also visits Wentworth Falls and the pretty village of Leura, famous for their annual garden festivals and playing host to many of the region's local artists.

**Breakfast included**

#### We recommend:

#### World Heritage Blue Mountains



Experience the panoramas from a series of lookouts, including Echo Point – the prime position to view the Three Sisters rock formation.



# WONDERS OF AUSTRALIA

Days 21 to 22: Sydney - UK



Dubai



Singapore

## Day 21: Depart Sydney

The day is yours until it's time to depart for the airport, early afternoon. Our flights to our chosen UK airport operate via Dubai where there will be a change of aircraft.

**Breakfast, and in-flight meals and drinks included**

## Day 22: Arrive UK

This morning we arrive into our chosen airport (London Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow) bringing to an end our incredible adventure.

**In-flight meals and drinks included**

## Why not combine with a tour of New Zealand?



If you wish to make the ultimate journey to Australasia, combining the Wonders of Australia with either the Magnificent New Zealand or Very Best of New Zealand tours makes perfect sense.

Please see pages 82-89 for more details.

## HOMEBOUND STOPOVERS

If you would like to break your journey on the way home, we have a selection of fabulous stopovers for you to choose from: Singapore, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Bali or alternatively, enjoy a stay in Dubai, leaving a relatively short flight back to the UK. Further information on these stopovers may be found on pages 128 - 131.

### Dubai - 5\* Marriott al Jaddaf Two nights from only £295pp

To take in the magic, mystery and culture of Arabia perhaps consider a stopover in Dubai, home to the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa.

### Hong Kong - 4\* Regal Kowloon Two nights from only £345pp

The Far East's number one stopover destination. Be sure to take in a Victoria Harbour cruise and indulge yourselves in the very best street markets, vibrant shops and excellent dining.

### Bangkok - 4\* Amari Watergate Hotel Two nights from only £195pp

Why not consider a stopover in Bangkok, the City of Angels, with its glittering temples, buzzing street markets, indulgent spas and graceful service?

### Singapore - 4\* Copthorne Kings Hotel Two nights from only £245pp

Possibly a two night break in the Lion City of Singapore might be on your wish list? A former British trading colony, Singapore perfectly blends ancient eastern with modern western cultures.

### Bali - 4\* Melia Bali Three nights from only £395pp

For a truly relaxing homeward stopover, a stay in this beachside resort with its large private pool and many on-site dining options, is a must.

